

Standing Committee on Finance (FINA)

Pre-budget consultations 2012

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Responses

1. Economic Recovery and Growth

Given the current climate of federal and global fiscal restraint, what specific federal measures do you feel are needed for a sustained economic recovery and enhanced economic growth in Canada?

Reexamine the government's criminal sentencing guidelines with an eye to cutting spending on prisons. (Legalizing marijuana possession would help.) Spend the savings on early childhood education, small business support, and arts funding.

2. Job Creation

As Canadian companies face pressures resulting from such factors as uncertainty about the U.S. economic recovery, a sovereign debt crisis in Europe, and competition from a number of developed and developing countries, what specific federal actions do you believe should be taken to promote job creation in Canada, including that which occurs as a result of enhanced internal and international trade?

Invest in research and manufacturing rather than pipelines to sell our crude natural resources to other countries.

3. Demographic Change

What specific federal measures do you think should be implemented to help the country address the consequences of, and challenges associated with, the aging of the Canadian population and of skills shortages?

Give tax breaks to companies that hire seniors.

4. Productivity

With labour market challenges arising in part as a result of the aging of Canada's population and an ongoing focus on the actions needed for competitiveness, what specific federal initiatives are needed in order to increase productivity in Canada?

Invest in research, education, and the arts. They're the things that most lift a country up from mediocrity to greatness.

5. Other Challenges

With some Canadian individuals, businesses and communities facing particular challenges at this time, in your view, who is facing the most challenges, what are the challenges that are being faced and what specific federal actions are needed to address these challenges?

The poor and disadvantaged need affordable housing and job accommodations. Small businesses, artists, and any other groups who have very uneven income years should be able to average their income over five years for income tax purposes.